**Relief measures to flood-ravaged A.P.**

606. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has sought grants as relief measures in flood-ravaged districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance given in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE: (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have sought Central assistance of Rs. 278.26 crore in the wake of recent heavy rains and flash floods.

(c) Entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2001-2002 amounting to Rs. 155.97 crore has been released to the State for undertaking immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including floods. Assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) is under consideration.

**Procurement of Ball Copra from Karnataka**

607. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production of Ball Copra in Karnataka for the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) the amount released by the Central Government for procurement of Ball Copra under Minimum Support Price for the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and the quantum of Copra purchased;

(c) whether any guidelines have been prescribed by Government about purchase of Copra; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the procurement would continue further; if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE: (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) According to the available information, the estimated annual

production of Ball Copra in the State of Karnataka is around 65,000 MTs.

(b) On behalf of the Government of India, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED), a Central Nodal Agency, had released an amount of Rs. 2382.36 lakh to the procuring agency *i.e.* the Karnataka MARKFED for the purchase of 6333 MTs of Ball Copra during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 in the State of Karnataka.

(c) Yes, Sir. Government of India issued guidelines to NAFED to procure Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of Copra under the scheme. A statement indicating the details of FAQ parameters for purchase of Ball Copra under PSS during 2001 season is enclosed (*See* below).

(d) Yes Sir. NAFED has advised the State Procuring Agencies to continue procurement of Copra in Karnataka at Minimum Support Price.

**Statement**

*Grade Specifications & Definitions of FAQ Ball Copra for Procurement under PSS during 2001 season*

| S. No. | Characteristics | Maximum limits of tolerance for FAQ |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Size (Diameter) minimum in mm | 75 |
| 2. | Foreign matter % by weight max. | 0.2 |
| 3. | Mouldy black kernels % by count maximum | 2.0 |
| 4. | Wrinkled kernels % by count max. | 10.0 |
| 5. | Moisture content % by weight max. | 7.0 |
| 6. | Chips % by weight max. | 1.0 |
| | Support price | Rs. 3550 per qtl. FAQ |

*Description*

(i) These shall be the kernels obtained intact and in the form of balls from the fruits of cocos nucifera line. Fam-palmae.

(ii) These shall be well dried, reasonably firm and in sound merchantable condition.

(iii) These may be fumigated by sulphur or other fumigants permissible under PFA Rule, 1955 and shall be free from rancid taste and objectionable odour. The tests shall be whitish to dark brown in colour and the meat shall be pearl white to ash white in colour and shall be sweet in taste.

*Note*

1. Foreign matter includes sand, dust, straw and shell.
2. Mouldy & black kernels include balls in which more than 5% of the inner surface is covered with mould and or dark brown to black in colour.
3. Wrinkled kernels include balls that are shrunk out of normal shape or are not fully mature or developed or have a rubbery structure and uneven surface. Such kernels are often discolored.
4. Chips include pieces of kernel which are smaller in size.
5. Meat means the soft body enclosed in the shell which carried the oil.
6. + Packing under non-specified grade will be allowed only against a specified order from the foreign buyer indicating the quantity and quality of the produce desired.

+Non-specified.

**Wiping out Foot and Mouth disease from Kashmir**

608 PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Foot and Mouth disease has been commonly prevalent in Kashmir since 1980;